

What is claimed is:

1. A cam mechanism comprising:

a cam ring including at least one cam rib which is formed on a peripheral surface of said cam ring to extend
5 non-linearly; and

a follower ring which is concentric with said cam ring, said follower ring including at least one pair of cam followers which are formed on a peripheral surface of said follower ring to be positioned apart from each
10 other in an axial direction of said follower ring to hold said cam rib between said pair of cam followers,

wherein, upon said cam ring and said follower ring being engaged with each other in an assembly process thereof, an inner cam follower of said pair of cam
15 followers firstly approaches one of opposite ends of said cam rib in a lengthwise direction thereof, and an outer cam follower of said pair of cam followers subsequently approaches said one of said opposite ends of said cam rib,

and wherein a portion of said outer cam follower is
20 extended outwards from a position of a peripheral surface of said inner cam follower in a circumferential direction of said follower ring.

2. The cam mechanism according to claim 1, wherein a circumferential width of said outer cam follower
25 is greater than a circumferential width of said inner cam

follower.

3. The cam mechanism according to claim 2,
wherein said outer cam follower and said second cam
follower are positioned to be symmetrical to a center line
5 extending parallel to an axis of said follower ring.

4. The cam mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein said cam ring and said follower ring are elements
of a lens barrel, said follower ring being guided
linearly along an optical axis of said lens barrel
10 without rotating.

5. The cam mechanism according to claim 4,
wherein said lens barrel comprises a linear guide member
having at least one linear guide groove for guiding said
follower ring linearly along said optical axis without
15 rotating said follower ring, said pair of cam followers
being formed on an end of a linear guide projection which
is engaged in said linear guide groove.

6. The cam mechanism according to claim 3,
wherein opposite side end portions of said outer cam
20 follower with respect to said center line each comprise
a beveled surface, so that said one of opposite ends can
easily be led into a space between said outer cam follower
and said inner cam follower.

7. The cam mechanism according to claim 1,
25 further comprising an intermediate ring which is

disposed concentrically between said cam ring and said follower ring,

wherein one of said cam ring and said follower ring is inserted into said intermediate ring in said assembly
5 process of said cam ring and said follower ring.

8. The cam mechanism according to claim 4, wherein said lens barrel serves as a photographing lens.

9. A cam mechanism comprising:

a cam ring including at least one cam rib which is
10 formed on a peripheral surface of said cam ring to extend non-linearly; and

a follower ring which is concentric with said cam ring, and includes at least one pair of cam followers which are formed on a peripheral surface of said follower ring
15 to be positioned apart from each other in an axial direction of said follower ring to hold said cam rib between said pair of cam followers,

wherein said pair of cam followers are positioned to be symmetrical to a center line extending parallel to
20 an axis of said follower ring, and

wherein, upon said cam ring and said follower ring being engaged with each other in an assembly process thereof, a circumferential width of one of said pair of cam followers which firstly approaches one of opposite
25 ends of said cam rib in a lengthwise direction thereof

is smaller than a circumferential width of the other of said pair of cam followers which subsequently approaches said one of said opposite ends of said cam rib.